

**Missouri Department of Health
Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES) Program
2002 Prevention Outreach Plan – Preliminary Summary of Activities**

Prevention Activity #1: Acquisition, cleaning and geocoding of data for use with the ATSDR GIS mapping system

Description:

In order to accurately obtain the necessary information for the HSEES system, the HSEES Coordinator will acquire, clean and geocode data sets from various sources to obtain locational information on at-risk populations (businesses and industries, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, licensed day care facilities and recreational areas). This data will be submitted to ATSDR to be incorporated into the GIS mapping program currently under development. In addition, the data will be used on-site in ArcView 8.1 to determine at-risk populations and other spatial analyses. This information will be used to graphically display potentially impacted areas, and will be used as a resource for other biological, chemical and radiological planning, preparation and response activities within the department.

Lessons Learned:

Data must be geocoded as an exact match to give a true representation of the at-risk populations within one-quarter mile of an event. Data geocoded by census block or zip code centroid is not sufficient for the purposes of determine the at-risk populations.

Evaluation Measures:

Effectiveness was immediate as this activity increased the accuracy and availability of data being captured by the HSEES system for all 2002 events.

Prevention Activity #2: Contracts with Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs)

Description:

Contracts were developed to provide support for comprehensive, community-based prevention activities at the local level. Each LEPC accepting the contract was required to conduct five educational presentations during calendar year 2002. At least one presentation must be targeted to each of the standard population groups (employees, first responders and the general public). In addition, each presentation included information on the HSEES program, which was provided by the HSEES Coordinator. The HSEES Coordinator also provided fact sheets, quarterly reports, reporting forms, and county and industry specific data upon request. The LEPCs were reimbursed \$200.00 for each presentation given after the appropriate reports were submitted and reviewed/approved by the HSEES Coordinator to process payment. Funds were provided through the HSEES grant.

Summary of Activities:

LEPCs in the 25 counties with the highest number of events (1994-1998) were contacted as soon as the Missouri HSEES program learned that funding had been approved for this activity. Four LEPCs expressed an interest in participating and the contracts were released November 16, 2001.

Effectiveness Measures:

Each LEPC must include representatives from law enforcement, fire fighting, health, local government, hospitals, broadcast and print media, community groups, owners/operators of facilities, and elected state and local officials. By enhancing our partnership with LEPCs, we will increase awareness regarding the goals and objectives of the HSEES program among local governmental agencies, health care providers, first responders, fixed facilities, and other community groups. Although the LEPCs did not conduct all of the educational sessions provided for in the contract, the number of collaborative relationships with these groups has increased significantly as a result of this activity, and has enhanced the relationships between the county LEPC and the county local public health agency.

Prevention Activity #3: Analysis of methamphetamine events resulting in injuries to law enforcement personnel

Description:

An analysis was conducted of all methamphetamine events reported during 1999-2001, with specific analyses of those events involving victims who are responders. Information will be shared with law enforcement agencies and the Missouri Highway Patrol (MHP), along with recommendations for proper PPE and training for officers involved in the execution of search warrants or collection of evidence for suspected methamphetamine labs. Contacts will also be provided for additional training resources for areas of the state where the greatest number of injuries are being reported.

Summary of Activities:

The analysis was completed and approved by ATSDR in November 2002. Reports will be distributed to law enforcement agencies and the MHP as soon as they are printed. Postcards announcing the availability of the report on the HSEES web site will be mailed to over 2,000 local safety and health officials announcing the reports' availability on the web site as well.

Lessons Learned:

The analysis verified assumptions about the prevalence and location of methamphetamine production in Missouri. Using geographic representation of events and injuries clearly demonstrates areas of the state where better training and preparedness for these types of events is needed to reduce injuries.

Evaluation Measures:

This activity will be considered effective if the number of individuals injured during methamphetamine-related events is reduced by 10% or more in 2003, based on a baseline of events established from data collected during calendar years 2000-2002. The total number of methamphetamine labs for the same time frame will be included in the analysis to determine if changes in the number of events and injuries is related to the number of operational labs.

Prevention Activity #4: 2001 Event Summary Reports by County

Description:

Reports summarizing 2001 event data, such as the number of events per county, substances released, injuries, evacuations and “interesting events”, were developed and published on the DHSS and HSEES web sites.

Summary of Activities:

Annual reports were designed using a template similar to the quarterly reports; however, additional information was included based on the majority of responses to the quarterly report survey conducted in 2001 (refer to the 2000 Summary, Activity #2). The reports will be placed on the DHSS Community Profiles site, as well as the HSEES web site. Postcards announcing the availability of these reports will also be sent to 2,000+ local health and safety officials.

Lessons Learned:

Based on feedback received regarding the quarterly reports, we anticipate that the annual event summary reports by county will provide valuable information to local fire and police departments, emergency management officials, health care providers and members of the general public.

Evaluation Measures:

This activity will be considered effective if a decrease of 10% or more is noted statewide in the number of events and the number of injuries during calendar year 2003. The number of “hits” made on the web site will also measure effectiveness of these reports.